

Transcribed for Albert Wisner Library by Victoria Desmond, 2014

WARWICK VALLEY RAILROAD CO.
Superintendent's Office

Warwick, N.Y., June 7th 1877

Mr. L.C. Draper

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 30th ult. directed to the Postmaster of Warwick was handed to me by him with a request to answer it. All of the descendants of Gen. Hathorn left this part of the country many years since; one of his descendants, Andrew Hathorn, is now living in Elmira, Chemung Co. N.Y.

I have always taken a lively interest in anything that would perpetuate the deeds of those "heroic" men, and trust that you will be successful in gathering from his descendants such information as you desire with regard to Gen. Hathorn. The old house which he built and in which he lived was erected in 1773 and is yet standing in a good state of preservation. I have always understood that he was a man of marked ability, having the unbounded confidence of his neighbors and friends. At various times, deeds and other papers drawn by him have come under my observation bearing evidence of business talent and a degree of culture that was rare at that period of our history. I have been told by some of our older residents that he was of a very sensitive nature, and it is related of him that during the Revolution, while at his home, about a mile from our village, when he came to the Post Office after his mail, on his return home, he would stop midway under a large hickory tree by the roadside and read his letters, and was often found weeping over their contents where they announced reverses of the American Army.

In 1820 the citizens of Orange Co. gathered from the Battlefield the bones of the slain in the Battle of Minisink and interred them in Goshen in this County. This patriotic spirit was awakened at that time, by Dr. D. R. Arnold who read a biographical sketch of Col. Benjamin Tusten who fell in the Battle of Minisink. Gen. Hathorn on this occasion made an address on laying the corner stone of the monument. An address was also made by Dr. Wilson, which may be found in Samuel W. Eager's History of Orange Co. Col. Tusten has many descendants in this County. Among others, my wife was one.

Gen. Hathorn was born Jan. 9th 1749 and died Feb. 19th 1825 having survived his wife Elizabeth who died Aug. 29th 1810. My grandfather, James Burt, was under Gen. Hathorn's command while he was stationed at Fishkill, N.Y. As to the family of Gabriel Wisner—I would refer you to W. H. Wisner 141 Pearl St., N.Y. City. Mr. Russel Pres. of Goshen Nat. Bank will probably give you information as to John Woo? and Col. Wisner. If you desire perhaps I might pick up some more traditional history on the Gen. Hathorn.

Very Respectfully yours,

Grinnell Burt